



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

October 15, 2002

H.R. 4966

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 12, 2002

SUMMARY

H.R. 4966 would update the organization plan for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and would authorize appropriations for several NOAA coastal and ocean research programs and support functions. Assuming appropriation of the amounts authorized for these activities, CBO estimates that the agency would spend \$235 million in 2003 and about \$1.6 billion over the 2003-2007 period. Enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Certain programs reauthorized by the legislation could provide grants and technical assistance to state and local governments. Any costs incurred by those entities as a result of participating in the NOAA programs would be voluntary.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4966 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by the bill will be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2003 through 2007 and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the authorized NOAA programs.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007

CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION^a					
Authorization Level	335	339	342	346	349
Estimated Outlays	235	321	334	344	348

a. About \$280 million was appropriated in fiscal year 2002 for the NOAA programs and activities that would be authorized by H.R. 4966. A full-year appropriation for 2003 has not yet been enacted for these programs.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4966 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. Certain programs reauthorized by the bill could provide grants and technical assistance to state and local governments. Any costs incurred by those entities as a result of participating in the NOAA programs would be voluntary.

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